

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Applicants thank the Examiner for carefully considering this application, and indicating that claims 14-26 are allowed.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-26 are pending in this action. Claims 14-26 have been allowed by the Examiner. Claims 1 and 14 are independent. The remaining claims 2-13 and 15-26 depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 14, respectively.

Amended Claims

By way of this reply, claim 1 has been amended to include allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner. Claim 8 has been amended to clarify the invention. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Drawings

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner acknowledge the formal drawings filed on October 31, 2003, and indicate whether they are acceptable.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Applicants' admitted prior art. By way of this reply, claim 1 has been amended to include allowable subject matter of claim 14, as indicated by the Examiner. Claims 2-13 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. To the extent

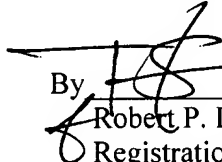
that this rejection may apply to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants believe this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03226/325001; P8622).

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Respectfully submitted,

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